

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application, as amended. Claims 17-19 have been amended and the claim previously labeled 19 has been canceled. Claims 17-19 have been amended by renumbering the claims and amending the body of the claims to properly depend on the intended claims. The specification has been amended by adding text related to the method of manufacturing a control valve and is supported at least at original claim 19 and page 4, lines 9-18 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Formal Matter – Numbering of Claims

The Examiner has stated that misnumbered claim 16 (second occurrence) has been renumbered 17. Furthermore, the Examiner has stated that misnumbered claims 17-19 following the second occurrence of claim 16 have been renumbered 18-20. Applicants have renumbered the claims and have amended the body of the claims to properly depend on the intended claims.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has stated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121: Invention I: claims 1-19; and Invention II: claim 20. The Examiner states that inventions I and II are distinct from each other because the product as claimed can be made by a materially different process that does not require the method step of applying a predetermined fluid pressure. The Examiner has further stated that the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, Applicants hereby elect invention I, without traverse.

Election Requirement

The Examiner has issued an election requirement stating that the application contains figures directed to the following two patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Group 1: Figs. 1-8; and Group 2: Fig. 9. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, the Examiner has required

the applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Furthermore, the Examiner has stated that claim 1 is generic.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, Applicants hereby elect Group 1: Figs. 1-8, without traverse. Claims 1-19 read on Figs. 1-8. Furthermore, Applicants agree that claim 1 is generic.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, including claims 1-19, is in condition for substantive consideration and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

By: *[Signature]* (Reg. No. 79,546)
MARTIN G. BELISARIO
Registration No. 32,886
AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP
One Commerce Square
2005 Market Street, Suite 2200
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7013
Telephone: 215-965-1200
Direct Dial: 215-965-1303
Facsimile: 215-965-1210
E-Mail: mbelisario@akingump.com

MGB/JHC:nywp